

AMENDMENT

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosing early cardiovascular disease~~[I.]~~ comprising ~~providing contact between~~~~(a)~~ contacting a sample of body fluid ~~and with~~ phosphocholine and/or a derivative thereof, (b) assessing the presence and/or concentration of antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in the sample of body fluid by measuring antibodies bound to phosphocholine and/or derivative thereof, and (c) ~~evaluating~~ ~~said~~ diagnosing early cardiovascular disease based on the presence and/or concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in the sample of body fluid as an indicator of cardiovascular disease.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~diagnosis of~~ ~~early~~ cardiovascular disease comprises ~~diagnosis of the risk of~~ atherosclerosis, hypertension or thrombosis.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~comprising~~~~wherein~~ measuring said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by comprises an immunoassay.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~comprising~~~~wherein~~ measuring said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by comprises an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~comprising~~~~wherein~~ measuring said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by comprises a radioimmunoassay.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~comprising~~ measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in ~~wherein~~ said body fluid is serum prepared from a blood sample.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in wherein said body fluid is plasma prepared from a blood sample.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, comprising wherein measuring antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by comprises an immunoassay.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, comprising wherein measuring antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by comprises an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, comprising wherein measuring antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by comprises a radioimmunoassay.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or said derivative in wherein said body fluid is serum prepared from a blood sample.
12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in wherein said body fluid is plasma prepared from a blood sample.
13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample of body fluid is a human blood sample or fraction thereof, and said measurement is by measuring comprises an immunoassay.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]]2, wherein said derivative is phosphorychelinelysophosphatidylcholine.
15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said derivative is lysophosphatidylcholine.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said derivative is phosphocholine, phosphorycholine or lysophosphatidylcholine.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said derivative is phosphocholine, phosphorycholine or lysophosphatidylcholine.
19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said derivative is phosphocholine, phosphorycholine or lysophosphatidylcholine.
20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said derivative is phosphocholine, phosphorycholine or lysophosphatidylcholine.
21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphochline.
22. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphochline.
23. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphochline.
24. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphochline.
25. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphochline.
26. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphochline.